IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBY
CIVIL APPELLATE JURISDICTION

WRIT PETITION NO. 5489 OF 2006

Ujwala Vasant Dalvi and Ors. .....Petitioners.

V/s

State of Maharashtra and Ors. .....Respondents.

Ms. Helen K. Mandlik for Petitioners.

Mr. P.P. Kakade, Assistant Government Pleader, for Respondent - State.

CORAM: **H.S. BEDI, C.J.,** & **V.M.KANADE, J.**

DATE : **OCTOBER 18, 2006**

P.C.

1. Affidavit in reply is taken on record.

2. We have heard the learned Counsel for the parties and perused the pleadings.

3. We observe that Shri D.R. Chaudhari was, at the relevant time, holding a substantive post of Law Officer and not that of Member Secretary of the Scrutiny Committee. As per Government Notification dated 4th June 2006, Item No.4, when read alongwith Rule 9 of the Maharashtra Scheduled Tribes (Regulation of Issuance and Verification of) Certificate Rules, 2003, Member Secretary must be a Member of the

Scrutiny Committee under all circumstances. It is clearly stated in the reply that Shri M.S. Deore who was a Member Secretary, was on Medical Leave with effect from 31st December, 2005 and, therefore, Shri D.R. Chaudhari, who was a Law Officer, was given the additional charge of Member Secretary while holding the post of Law Officer as well. We thus find that the Committee was not properly constituted. We, therefore, quash the impugned Order at Exhibit "A" with liberty to the respondents to pass a fresh order in accordance with law as expeditiously as possible.

4. We also observe that no issue on the merits of the controversy has been raised by the learned Counsel for the parties and all issues are therefore kept open.

CHIEF JUSTICE

V.M. KANADE, J.